SNAP COMMUNITY OBSERVER'S AUTHORITY

Neighbors helping neighbors

keep their community safe and secure

Purpose

- The purpose of this presentation is to provide information on the limits of your authority while volunteering as a SNAP community observer.

Agenda

- Learning objectives
- Community observer’s role
- Community observer’s liability
- Limits of authority for a community observer
- Conclusion

Learning Objectives

- Describe a community observer's role
- Describe a community observer's legal liability
- Describe a community observer's authority

Community Observer's Role

- Eyes and ears only
- Reporters and observers
- Not law enforcement officers or Military Police volunteers
- Not vigilantes
- Should not become involved with suspicious persons or suspected criminals
- Avoid confrontation, and/or arguments with people
- Treat everyone with respect and civility

Community Observers' Liability

- Community observer volunteers do not have protection against criminal or civil liability under the NATO Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA)
- Volunteers may be individually liable for criminal and civil charges if they exceed their authority

Community Observers' Authority

- As a community observer volunteer – you have absolutely no police powers or powers of apprehension over anyone, beyond that of a private citizen

- As a commissioned or non-commissioned officer, there are some powers of apprehension over persons who are subject to the Uniformed Code of Military Justice – However, such application is strongly discouraged!!! – Remember, as a community observer, your role is to OBSERVE AND REPORT

CONCLUSION

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